

DOE Weekly Field Memo – March 17, 2010

From the Vermont Department of Education:

- Department Amends List of Vermont's 'Lowest Achieving' Schools
- Advisory: Vermont Top Spellers to Compete in Statewide Spelling Bee
- Federal Funds Available for Afterschool Supper Programs
- Vermont Professional Development Network (VPDN) Meetings for Literacy, Math, and Science
- 2010-2011 Regional School Calendars
- Transformation Blog by Department of Education

Vermont Reads Institute:

- Alliterate vs. Illiterate: Understanding and Responding to the Needs of All Adolescent Struggling Readers

From the U.S. Department of Education:

- Investing in Innovation Funding Available to LEAs

Department Amends List of Vermont's 'Lowest Achieving' Schools

Audience: All

On March 10, 2010, the department released the list of Vermont's ten "persistently low-achieving schools" as required by the U.S. Department of Education. Due to a calculation error at the department, that list was incorrect. Two schools that were classified have been removed, and two schools that were not on the March 10 list have now been added. Visit

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/press_releases.html for the complete release and ranked list of schools.

Contact: Rae Ann Knopf, Deputy Commissioner, at (802) 828-3135 or rae.knopf@state.vt.us; Gail Taylor, Director of Standards and Assessment, at (802) 828-5158 or gail.taylor@state.vt.us

Advisory: Vermont Top Spellers to Compete in Statewide Spelling Bee

Audience: All

The Vermont Department of Education, Vermont Principals' Association, Vermont Humanities Council and Burlington Free Press will host a statewide individual spelling bee for Vermont students on Wednesday, March 17 at 3:30 p.m. at the McCarthy Arts Center at St. Michael's College in Colchester. View this press release and the list of participants at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/press_releases.html.

Contact: Jill Remick, Communications Director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us

Federal Funds Available for Afterschool Supper Programs

Audience: All

The department announced that Vermont's school-aged children will now have access to a nutritious supper through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Vermont is one of only 13 states and the District of Columbia to participate in the Area Eligible Afterschool Supper Pilot through the U.S.

Department of Agriculture. Visit http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/press_releases.html for the complete release.

Contact: Laurie Colgan, Child Nutrition Director, at (802) 828-5153 or laurie.colgan@state.vt.us

Vermont Professional Development Network (VPDN) Meetings for Literacy, Math and Science

Audience: Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, Educators

The regional VPDN meetings for literacy and math usually scheduled for the spring will **not** be held this year. The DOE science coordinators have been partnering with Vermont Science Teachers Association to host a state conference on March 31st. For more information and to register visit

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#science_vpdn.

Contact: Literacy: Marty Gephart at (802) 828-1462 or marty.gephart@state.vt.us,

Elementary Math and Science: Kathy Renfrew at (802) 828-6561 or kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us

Middle and High School Science: Gail Hall at (802) 828-0156 or gail.hall@state.vt.us

2010-2011 Regional School Calendars

Attention: Superintendents

State statute requires that superintendents of schools and headmasters of public schools not managed by school boards in an area meet annually, and by majority vote, establish – by April 1 – a uniform calendar within that area for the following school year. Approved regional calendars for 2010-2011 should be submitted to Carol King.

Contact: Carol King, State Board Liaison, at (802) 828-5101 or Carol.C.King@state.vt.us

Transformation Blog by Department of Education

Audience: All

The department continues to collect informative articles and other resources regarding transformation on the blog, <http://transformvermont.wordpress.com/>. If you have questions or comments about the blog, or submissions for articles we can post, please contact Jill Remick.

Contact: Jill Remick, Communications Director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us

Vermont Reads Institute:

Alliterate vs. Illiterate: Understanding and Responding to the Needs of All Adolescent Struggling Readers

Audience: Middle-level Educators, Literacy Coordinators

The purpose of this two-day workshop is to define the adolescent struggling reader and provide examples of ways to work with struggling students both within the classroom context and through intervention models. Day One will focus on the following question: Who are struggling adolescent readers and how do we reach them in our classrooms? Alysia Backman from South Burlington High School will lead discussions around the terms alliterate and illiterate and what it means to motivate and engage adolescent learners. She will also share ways in which classroom teachers and specialists can collaborate to meet student needs. Day Two will focus on intervention models for struggling adolescent learners. Mary Beth Monahan and Kathleen Brinegar from the Vermont Reads Institute will present research and facilitate a discussion focused on Response to Intervention (RTI) in secondary schools. Dana Cray from Middlebury Union Middle School will also describe how she developed and implemented an intervention program for her 7/8 grade struggling readers. Cost: \$125 (FREE for VALLI Members)

For more information and to register go to <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#vri>.

DOE Contact: Kerry Garber at (802) 828-3150 or kerry.garber@state.vt.us

VRI Contact: Mary Grace at (802) 828-0520 or mary.grace@uvm.edu

From the U.S. Department of Education:

Investing in Innovation Funding Available to LEAs

Audience: All

The Investing in Innovation Fund, established under section 14007 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), provides funding to support (1) local educational agencies (LEAs), and (2) nonprofit organizations in partnership with (a) one or more LEAs or (b) a consortium of schools.

The purpose of this program is to provide competitive grants to applicants with a record of improving student achievement and attainment in order to expand the implementation of, and investment in, innovative practices that are demonstrated to have an impact on improving student achievement or student growth, closing achievement gaps, decreasing dropout rates, increasing high school graduation rates, or increasing college enrollment and completion rates. For more information visit

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovation/index.html>.

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.